

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 110030

71

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SAB-01 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 H-02 OES-06 DLOS-04

SAL-01 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN:JPBECKER/RBHOWARD/EJNADEAU:LKB

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/PAN:EJNADEAU

----- 107867

O 062102Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORPN

SUBJECT:U.S. PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ACTIVITIES REPORT

FOR MINISTER BELL AND GENERAL DOLVIN.

I. THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 4 FROM THE DEPARTMENT APPLICABLE TO
THE MAY 1976 NEGOTIATING TALKS IN PANAMA, DESPATCHED FROM
ARA/PAN AT 4:00 PM ON MAY 6.

II. BRIEFING ITEMS.

A. FORD PRESS COMMENT -- PRESIDENT FORD MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENT ON PANAMA ISSUE DURING 5/5 WHITE HOUSE Q AND A
SESSION WITH PRESS:

QUOTE. QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE BEEN
HURT ON THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 110030

THE PRESIDENT: IF WE HAVE, I DON'T THINK IT IS A

LEGITIMATE DECISION BECAUSE I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS DOING, WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS DONE FOR THE LAST 13 YEARS, IS THE RIGHT POLICY, AND WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE RATHER THAN TO ACCELERATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY CONFLICT AND SO WE ARE GOING TO DO

WHAT WE BELIEVE IS RIGHT, WHICH I THINK IS NEGOTIATE....
UNQUOTE.

B. CONGRESS -- FIRFER AND HOWARD WILL MEET AFTERNOON 5/6 WITH CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATION. FINDLEY IS REPORTEDLY PREPARING SPEECH IN DEFENSE OF PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON PANAMA.

C. CLEMENTS SPEECH -- WE UNDERSTAND FROM ISA THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS WILL BE GIVING AT LEAST ONE SPEECH IN TEXAS EARLY NEXT WEEK AND THAT HE WILL DEVOTE A PORTION TO THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

D. MEDIA COVERAGE -- TUNA BOAT STORYBROKE LAST NIGHT ON CBS NEWS WITH FILM STRIPS OF U.S. TUNA BOATS. COMMENTARY FOLLOWS: "MUDD: TWO AMERICAN TUNA BOATS LOADED WITH MORE THAN \$1 MILLION WORTH OF FISH ARE TRAPPED AT THE ATLANTIC ENTRANCE OF THE PANAMA CANAL, VIRTUAL PRISONERS OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT. THE TWO BOATS WERE CAUGHT FISHING LAST WEEK IN THE PACIFIC, IN TERRITORIAL WATERS CLAIMED BY PANAMA. SOME PANAMANIAN PATROL BOATS TRIED TO INTERCEPT THEM; THE TUNA BOATS SOUGHT SANCTUARY IN THE U.S.-ADMINISTERED CANAL ZONE. THE PANAMANIAN GUN BOATS ARE NOW PREVENTING THEIR ESCAPE INTO THE ATLANTIC.

THE INCIDENT UNDERSCORES THE TENSIONS SURROUNDING THE CANAL, WHICH HAS BECOME AN ISSUE IN THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN."

STORY ALSO CARRIED CBS-TV MORNING NEWS, HUGHES RUDD: "ONE SIGN OF DISAGREEMENT IS VERY VISIBLE RIGHT NOW IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE. THERE ARE TWO UNITED STATES TUNA FISHING BOATS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 110030

HAVE BEEN TAKEN REFUGE FROM THE PANAMANIAN NAVY. THE PANAMANIAN SAY THE TUNA BOATS WERE OPERATING ILLEGALLY IN PANAMANIAN WATERS, AND THAT THEY OWE \$200,000 IN FINES. THE PANAMANIAN SAY THAT IF THE FINES ARE NOT PAID, THE BOATS WILL BE INTERCEPTED AND SEIZED WHEN THEY LEAVE THE CANAL ZONE. THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN PANAMA SAYS THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS UNDER STUDY, A STUDY WHICH MAY BE COMPLICATED BY THE WAY THE CANAL ZONE HAS BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE IN THIS

COUNTRY. "

ALSO WASHINGTON STAR TODAY HAS MAJOR ITEM FROM NEW SERVICES
HEADLINED "PANAMA'S NAVY BOTTLES UP U.S. TUNA BOATS." ITEM
INCLUDES COMMENTS ON GOP DEMAND FOR FINES OF \$100,000,
BOYD'S "JOLLY COWBOY" REMARKS IN BOGOTA ABOUT GOVERNOR
REAGAN; REAGAN'S "MILITANT" STAND ON THE PANAMA CANAL AND

THE ONGOING TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

E. NOON BRIEFINGS -- ARA/PAN SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME
PREPARING SUGGESTED Q'S AND A'S FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFINGS TODAY, BUT NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.
WE AND ARA/PAF HAVE HAD CALLS FROM REPORTERS TODAY, BUT
FACT THAT BOATS HAVE LEFT DEFLATES INTEREST AND QUESTIONS
HAVE BEEN EASY TO ANSWER.

F. YOUR TRAVEL PLANS -- WE ASSUME YOU WILL RETURN
TOMORROW AS SCHEDULED, AND ARE MAKING TRANSPORTATION
ARRANGEMENTS ON THAT BASIS. SISCO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE110030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LA/PAN:JPBECKER/RBHOWARD/EJNADEAU:LKB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760175-0533
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760583/aaaactgr.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: .S. PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR MINISTER BELL AND GENERAL DOLVIN.
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006